

## Jeremiah 16

**Read Jeremiah 16:1-9:** God is preparing Jeremiah to brace for the judgements coming to Judah. As believers, we also have to strap in and brace for the common judgments that affect all people in a given society. It is like the rainfall that falls on the good and the evil equally. Jeremiah would be spared himself; but it would be no environment to have a wife and kids. They would be abused and killed. Even if they did not get harmed, they would be worried sick about him.

Jeremiah was also told not to associate, minister or comfort those appointed for judgement. God is not against marriage; but some people have kingdom jobs that would be seriously compromised if they listened to concerned family members instead of God. Things were about to get very ugly and painful to all living in Jerusalem. It was truly going to be a horror show. There would be no more music or enjoyment going forward. It would be a very heavy atmosphere. Sometimes the things that we are the most enthusiastic about obtaining could be the most painful things, if they are not God's will for us. For Jeremiah, it is not about a pretty face to share your life with. It would be the terror of seeing her abused and killed or taken away.

We are to do whatever we can to stop somebody from ruining their life. Once God has decided to clean house, we need to stand back and let the cleansing begin.

**Read Jeremiah 16:10-13:** God prepared Jeremiah for the response of the people. They would cry 'fowl' and ask why God would do this to them. The bible says that every man thinks that he is right in his own mind. How do you get past that? We see ourselves minding our own business. In reality God made us to worship him and live in harmony. We have said with our actions that he is not worth considering....regardless of what we say with words.

That should infuriate God. If I brought home a dog from the pound, and it started attacking me and my family; I would put it down. If that dog would not come near me...and kept running away...I would not go look for it. When we turn our back on our lifeline, we hurt ourselves. Even worse, we hurt innocent bystanders. I am in the word every day, and I still have to ask God to give me his heart and mind. I seem to lose touch with his thinking and feelings every day.

Jeremiah was to respond by saying that their ancestors abandoned God and became idolaters...and this generation was even worse. They were proud of their history, but it was a polished version. God has plain rules; that cannot be re-written by the children of Israel. Their

modifications of his word are not consistent with God's tenant requirements. The children of Israel had to leave.

Essentially, the Jews had used power and loopholes to obtain estates from widows and abuse their workers to build little empires for themselves. Life was about accumulation and experiences. Now God was going to spin the bottle and let them become the recipients of the same kind of stolen property and abuse. People are rarely open-minded enough to be told that they are going the wrong way. They have to get beat up and humbled by life first.

**Read Jeremaih 16:14-18:** People used to say that the LORD brought the children of Israel out from Egyptian slavery; across the wilderness, back into their homeland. Now the association between God and the children of Israel would become that God unleashed all kinds of predatory nations to sweep in on his own people. The children of Israel refused to live under house rules. They had polluted the beautiful land, and they worshipped pretend gods. If they want Babylonian gods, they would be sent to them.

**Read Jeremiah 16: 19-21:** Jeremiah can see that God will open the doors for Gentile salvation; while showing some serious tough love for his wayward Jews. Everyone will know that he is God.